

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

An address reporting technique for reporting address information in a distributed communication environment retrieves locally owned address information from each of a number of distributed address databases, sorts the address information according to a predetermined sorting scheme, and reports the sorted address information. Each address database is maintained by one of a plurality of interconnected modules. A reporting module reports address information by retrieving locally owned address information from its address database, retrieves locally owned address information from each of the other interconnected modules, sorts the address information according to a predetermined sorting scheme, and reports the sorted address information. The reporting module retrieves the locally owned address information from each of the other interconnected modules by sending a request message to the other interconnected modules and receiving a response message from each of the other interconnected modules including the locally owned address information from the module. A module that receives the request message retrieves locally owned address information from its address database, formats a response message, and sends the response message to the reporting module. The reporting module may indicate a starting address, in which case each module retrieves from its address database a predetermined number of locally owned address entries starting with a first locally owned address entry that is lexicographically greater than the starting address.